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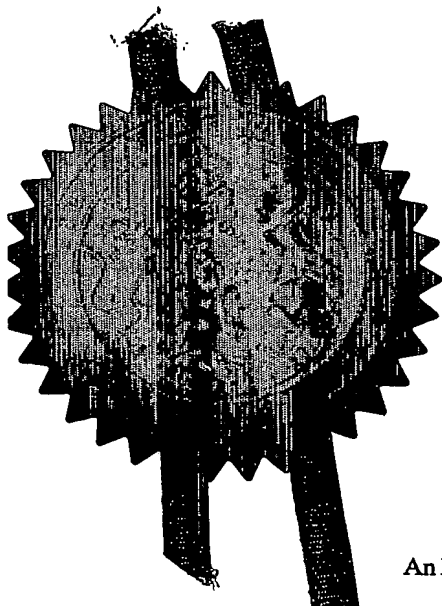
PCT

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1. Your reference NS/MJ/03218 17JUN05 E815355-15 000016
P01/7700 0.00-0313897.1

2. Patent application number 0313897.1 16 JUN 2003
(The Patent Office will fill in this part)

3. Full name, address and postcode of the or of each applicant (underline all surnames) First Major Assets Limited,
129 Mount Street,
Berkeley Square,
London,
W1Y 6DS

Patents ADP number (if you know it)

If the applicant is a corporate body, give the country/state of its incorporation United Kingdom 7772346001

4. Title of the invention Cable Tidy

5. Name of your agent (if you have one) BROOKES BATCHELLOR

"Address for service" in the United Kingdom to which all correspondence should be sent (including the postcode) 102-108 Clerkenwell Road
London EC1M 5SA

Patents ADP number (if you know it) 08142291001

6. If you are declaring priority from one or more earlier patent applications, give the country and the date of filing of the or of each of these earlier applications and (if you know it) the or each application number	Country	Priority application number (if you know it)	Date of filing (day / month / year)
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7. If this application is divided or otherwise derived from an earlier UK application, give the number and the filing date of the earlier application	Number of earlier application	Date of filing (day / month / year)
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8. Is a statement of inventorship and of right to grant of a patent required in support of this request? (Answer 'Yes' if:
a) any applicant named in part 3 is not an inventor, or
b) there is an inventor who is not named as an applicant, or
c) any named applicant is a corporate body.
See note (d)) Yes

CABLE TIDY

The present invention relates to a housing or receptacle for loose electrical cable.

5 In a typical office or home environment because of the large number of electrical and electronic appliances such as computers, TV, Hi Fi, etc which are to be connected to the mains, usually via a multiway adapter, there typically results an unsightly and possibly dangerous tangle of cables, which is difficult to control. Accordingly, the prior art such as WO/0041276 provides an arrangement which facilitates the control of such
10 cables, and is very simple to put into effect, without requiring any specialised electrical equipment. However in prior art solutions there can be a problem that due mainly to inductive effects in the cable, in the absence of sufficient air circulation, a build up of heat may occur within the enclosure rendering the enclosure unsafe due to the possibility of insulation melting leading to short circuits and possible fire risk.

15

 Accordingly the present invention provides a receptacle for electrical cable comprising a substantially rigid member carrying a flexible cable retaining member which is so formed as to allow a flow of air past the cable. Preferably the cable retaining member has sufficient capacity to receive a multiway adapter as well as associated
20 cables.

 In a preferred embodiment the rigid member comprises a bent sheet which is preferably of plywood or moulded plastics, but metal or other rigid material may also be suitable. The flexible member preferably comprises a net, although any flexible material
25 with a sufficient number of apertures to allow heat to quickly dissipate from the cable is suitable. In a preferred embodiment there are two exit means from the device whereby cable exits to the power supply through one exit means and to an appliance or

appliances through the other exit means. Preferably, the rigid member is adapted to hang from a table, desk, shelf or the like or adapted to stand vertically to save space. The rigid member may have guides for the cables so as to hold them in place and improve the appearance. In a particularly preferred embodiment the flexible member is
5 connected to the rigid member by resilient straps which allow easy access to the interior of the receptacle and to further grip whilst helping to hold the cables securely in place.

Some embodiments of the invention will now be described, by way of example, with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

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Figure 1 is a rear perspective view of a first embodiment of the invention in a first working orientation;

Figure 2 is a rear perspective view of the embodiment of Figure 1 in use;

Figure 3 is a further rear perspective view of the embodiment of Figure 1;

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Figure 4 is a front perspective view of the embodiment of Figure 1;

Figure 5 is a rear perspective view of the embodiment of Figure 1 in a second working orientation in conjunction with a table;

Figure 6 is a side view of the arrangement of Figure 5;

20 Figure 7 is a similar view to that of Figure 5, but also shows the arrangement of cable in the device;

Figure 8 is a front perspective view of a second embodiment of the invention and

Figure 9 is a front perspective view of a third embodiment of the invention.

Referring to the drawings, Figure 1 shows a first embodiment of the invention in a
25 standing orientation, which comprises a rigid member 1 formed from a rectangular sheet of plywood bent to form a base 2 so that it can stand upright. A flexible cable-retaining member 3 comprises a net and is attached to the rigid member 1 by a pair of elastic

straps 4 and 5. The ends of the straps 4 and 5 are connected by screws or the like to the rigid member thus forming openings allowing the cables to be introduced between the net and the rigid member 1 as shown in Figure 2, and indicated by arrows 'A' in Figure 3. The rigid member 1 also includes cable guides which comprise slots 6 and 7, and a trough 8 which help to position and retain the cable. The base of the rigid member also has resilient strips of silicone or rubber 9 and 10 on its inner surface for use in an alternative working position, as explained below.

Figures 5, 6 and 7 show the device of Figure 1 in the alternative working position, in which it is suspended on the edge of a table and is particularly useful as it takes up no space on the floor which in an office is often already crowded. As shown in Figure 6 the suspension is facilitated by the included angle α being such that the centre of gravity of the device is inboard relative to the edge of the table. In addition, the resilient strips 9 and 10 on the base 2 increase the friction between the surface of the table and the base. As shown in Figure 7 the trough 8 is particularly useful in this second working position as, when some of the cable is resting within it, it reduces the force pulling the cable out of the flexible member 3.

The device can also be used in a third working position wherein the rigid member is positioned with the base 2 and the trough 8 resting on the floor such that the flexible member 3 hangs below the rigid member 1 and the rigid member 1 can be used as a footstool. This can provide a footrest under a desk whilst hiding the cable.

Figures 1 to 7 show the preferred form of cable management slots or guides 6 and 7 which extend inwards from the outer edges of the base 2 of the rigid member and then extend upwardly towards the flexible member 3. The benefit of this method of cable retention is that when the rigid member is being used in the "standing" position, once the

cables are threaded through the guide they are located by three sides of the guide and retained in position by the supporting surface. In the second working position the guides 6 and 7 retain the cable between the sides of the guide and the adjacent surface of the table, shelf or desk.

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Figure 8 shows a second embodiment of the invention having alternative guides 11 and 12 to retain the cable which comprise slots extending inwards from the outer edges of the rigid member. These slots are particularly useful when the device is in the upright position as the cables can be introduced easily without having to slide them in a vertical

10 direction.

Figure 9 shows a third embodiment of the invention this time with a different style of guide, in which slots 13 and 14 extend inwards from the outer edges of the rigid member and then (when the device is in an upright position) extend downwards in order

15 to hold the cable more tightly. As will be clear from the drawing, the length of vertical extension of slots 13 and 14 can be varied depending on the degree of cable retention required. The lengths of the slots may be the same providing a more aesthetically pleasing symmetry, or may be different, allowing the user to choose the degree of cable retention. This style of guide is particularly useful if the cable tidy is used in different

20 orientations.

Claims

1. A receptacle for electrical cable comprising a substantially rigid member carrying a flexible cable retaining member which is so formed as to allow a flow of air past the
5 cable.
2. A receptacle according to claim 1, wherein the flexible member is a perforated bag.
- 10 3. A receptacle according to claim 1, wherein the flexible member is a net.
4. A receptacle according to any preceding claim in which the rigid member comprises a sheet of material, one edge of which is formed into an L-shaped cross-section, so as to form a stand.
- 15 5. A receptacle according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the rigid member includes cable guide means.
6. A receptacle according to claim 5, wherein said guide means comprises slots for
20 locating cables.
7. A receptacle according to claim 4, wherein said guide means includes a trough formed at the opposite edge to the edge having the L-shaped cross-section.
- 25 8. A receptacle according to claim 6, wherein the rigid member is formed from a sheet material and said each slot for locating cables extends inwards from an edge of the rigid member.

9. A receptacle according to claim 6, wherein said slots for locating cables are so shaped as to co-operate with an adjacent surface in order to retain the cables.
- 5 10. A receptacle according to claim 6, wherein said slots for locating cables are formed so as to co-operate with a table in order to retain the cables.
11. A receptacle according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the rigid member is adapted to hang from the edge of a desk.
- 10 12. A receptacle according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the rigid member is adapted to stand upright on a surface.
13. A receptacle according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein said rigid member has silicone or rubber strips to grip the surface of a table desk or the like.
- 15 14. A receptacle according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the flexible member is connected to the rigid member by resilient straps.
- 20 15. A receptacle according to any one of the preceding claims which is also adapted to house a multiway connector.
16. A receptacle substantially as herein described with reference to Figures 1 to 7 or Figure 8 or Figure 9 of the accompanying drawings.

Abstract

A cable tidy, comprising a rigid support member, carrying a flexible cable retaining net which allows air to flow past the cable in order that heat dissipates quickly.

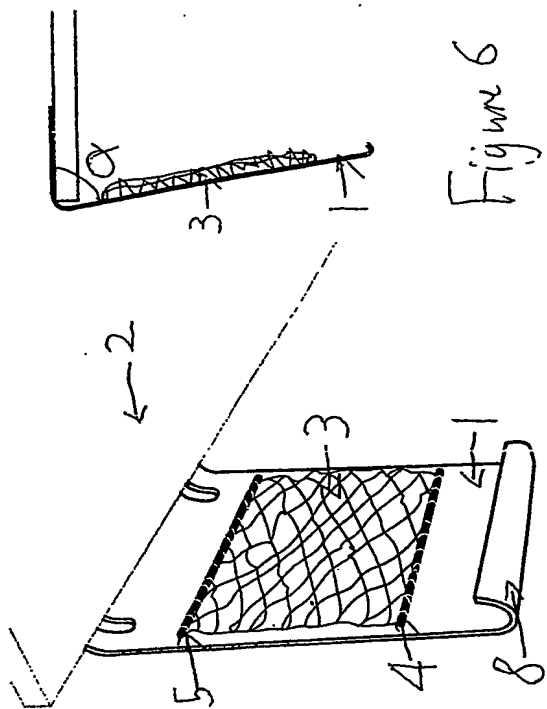


Figure 6

Figure 5

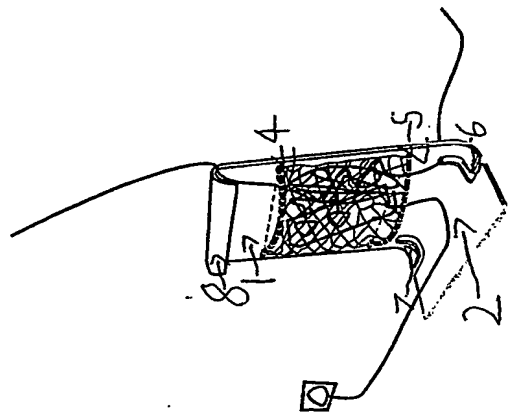


Figure 2

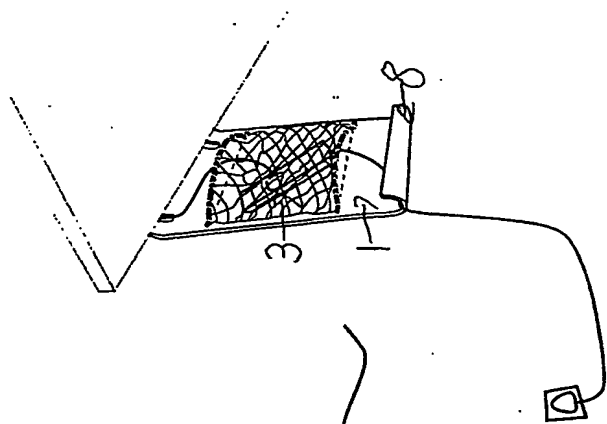


Figure 7

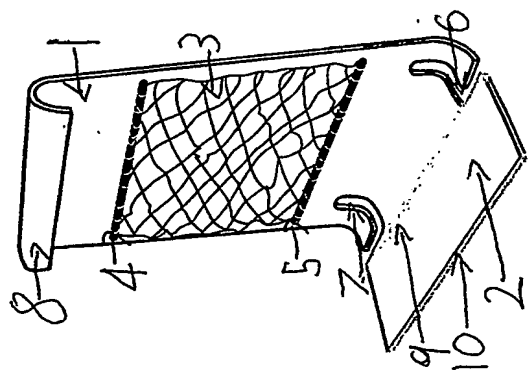


Figure 1

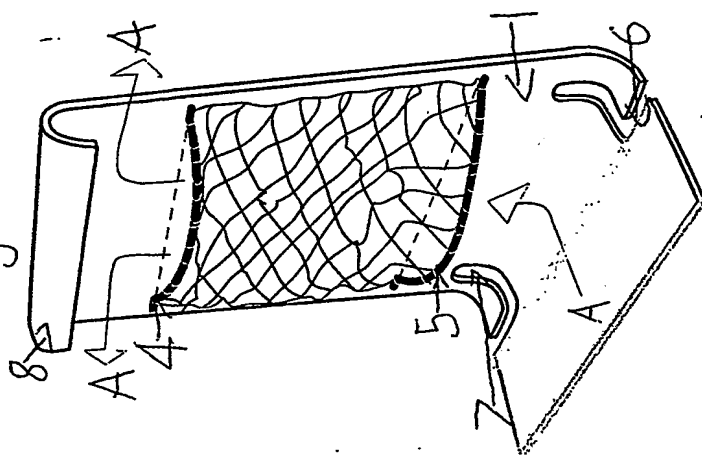


Figure 3

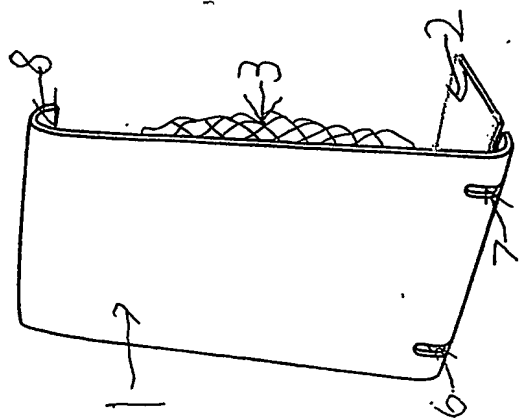


Figure 4

Renders of the cable tidy standing.
Exploration of possible shapes for
'cable management slots'.

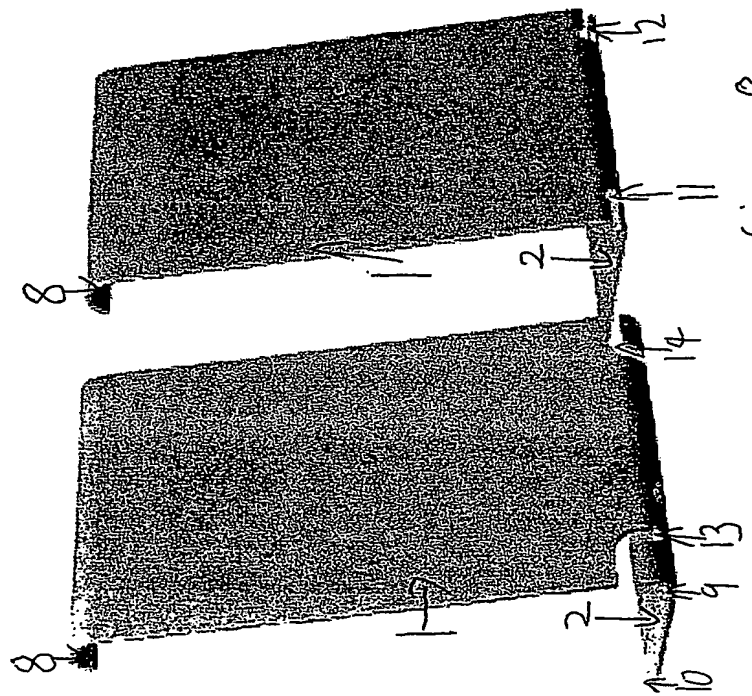
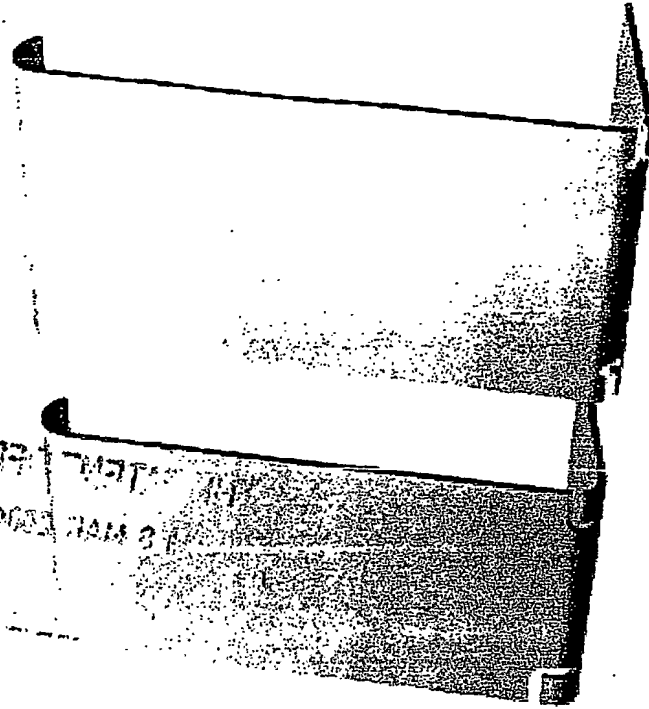


Figure 9

figure 8

Single strips of silicone,
or translucent rubber tubing
forms a discrete double sided
grip, and protection from scratches.



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